

HF Happenings

No 513

July 2012



The photograph in HF Happenings 511 was taken in Kimberley at the Honoured Dead Memorial.

The 2012 IARU HF World Championships

The 2012 IARU HF World Championships will take place during the second full weekend of July, beginning at 12:00 UTC on Saturday 14 July and ending at 12:00 UTC on Sunday 15 July 2012.

The objective of this contest is to contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU Member Society HQ stations, around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metre bands using phone and/or CW. The Member Society HQ station counts as a multiplier as well as members of the Regional Executive Committees and the Administrative Council.

All IARU Region 1 Member Societies are invited to actively participate with their official stations and to encourage their members to participate as well. The rules for the 2012 contest are available at <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>

IARU HF World Championship from South Africa

Geoff, ZS6GRL, reports that the SARC is taking part in the IARU HF Championships with the call sign ZS9HQ. To all of you out there, here is an opportunity to get a new call sign in the log. It will be the first time that this call sign will be used. The shack at the National Amateur Radio Centre is going to be used for the Phone operators.

The following operators will be flying the ZS9HQ flag - CW Operators - Vidi La Grange, ZS1EL; Allan Smith, ZS1AAX; Joop Hesp, ZS6C, and Pierre van Deventer, ZS6A. And the Phone Operators are Nigel Burgess, ZR6NGB; Roy McKay, ZS6RLM; Noel Hammond, ZR6DX; Geoff Levey, ZS6GRL and Rikus Joubert, ZS6RIC. I would like to thank all the operators who have come to the party.

ZS9HQ will be giving out a RS(T) report and SARC as a multiplier station.

South African Radio League
Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga

Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925

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http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HF_Happenings

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?





A bit further south, Dennis, ZS4BS, will also be participating in the IARU HF Championships and will be handing out a RS report and R1 or AC. Dennis is a member of the IARU Region 1 Executive Committee (R1) and the IARU Administrative Council (AC) and also counts as a multiplier station.

I hope that you can work ZS9HQ and ZS4BS for multiplier points. Catch you during the weekend!

Local contesting next weekend

The SARL Winter QRP Contest is a fun activity to promote QRP operation between radio amateurs in Southern Africa. Using homebuilt equipment or operating as a portable / field station and using temporary antennas is encouraged, but is not a requirement.

The Winter QRP Contest will be run from 12:00 to 15:00 UTC on Saturday 21 July with CW and phone activity on 40 metres. The exchange is a RS(T) report and a 6 character grid locator. Each SSB contact counts 1 point and each CW contact counts 2 points. Each prefix worked, counts as a new prefix multiplier.

Logs shall be submitted within 7 days after the contest and can be sent by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za or by mail to the West Rand Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 5344, Weltevredenpark, 1725.

The Boland ARC 40 Metre Contest is a fun activity to promote contacts on 40 metres between radio amateurs in Southern African countries. It is a phone only contest and will be run from 13:00 to 16:00 UTC on Sunday 22 July 2012. The exchange is your call sign, a RS report and year in which you were licensed

Participation can be as a fixed or mobile station (mobile includes field stations and portable stations). Only three [3] contacts per frequency are allowed before you have to change frequency. You may only return to a previously used frequency after five [5] contacts. Only wire or mobile antennas and a maximum output of 100 watt may be used.

Contacts between Fixed stations count 1 point, contacts between Fixed and Mobile stations count 2 points and contacts between two mobile stations count 3 points.

Only Excel log sheets will be accepted and can sent to zs1bak@bark.org.za or by mail to BARK, PO Box 273, Strand, 7139.

Find all the rules on pages 43 and 59 of the 2012 SARL Contest Manual

SARL Topband QSO Party Results

Seven logs were received. There were about 56 stations on the air during the 4 days of the QSO Party. More statistics and the full results will be published in the next issue of HF Happenings.

1st Lukas Holtzhausen, ZS6LH - 232 points

2nd Phillip van Tonder, ZS6PVT - 155 points

July

1 to 6 – Fauresmith Endurance Race

2 to 8 – Mr Price Pro Ballito, Willard Beach

7 – Vodacom Durban July, Greyville Racecourse

6 to 15 – Pick n Pay Knysna Oyster Festival

13 and 14 East Cape Biltong Festival, Somerset East

14 and 15 – IARU HF Championships

16 – Schools open

21 – SARL Winter QRP Contest

22 – Boland ARC 40 m Contest

25 – SARL 80 m Club Contest, CW

28 – Potjie and Mampoer Fees, Stonehaven, Vanderbijlpark

1 July to 31 August – Christmas in July, Sani Mountain Lodge, Lesotho

August

5 – SARL HF Phone Contest

9 – National Women's Day; SARL YL Sprint

10 – School holiday

18 and 19 – International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

19 – SARL HF Digital Contest

26 – SARL HF CW Contest

If you are attending any events, take your amateur radio with and spread the word about our hobby!

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3rd Johan van Zijl, ZS4DZ - 153 points

Congratulations to Lukas and the runners up. Thanks to all who submitted their logs!

Book Now for the RTA in Durban on 21 July

Full details of the SARL Radio Technology in Action symposium to be held in Durban on 21 July are now available on line at www.sarl.org.za. You can pre book and take part in an additional prize draw. If you would like a programme to be sent to your inbox, send an e-mail to rta@sarl.org.za with RTA Durban in the subject line. A PDF copy will be mailed to you.

DXCC News

Bill Moore NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager, reports that the following operations are approved for DXCC credit:

9XØPY - Rwanda, operation for 24 December 2011 to 7 January 2012

S21YD - Bangladesh, operations for 1994, 1995, 1998 and 1999

If you have had any of these operations rejected, please send an e-mail to bmoore@arrl.org to be put on the list for an update. When responding please include the Reference number on your credit slip to help expedite retrieval. (This number can be found in the upper right hand portion).

Note. Due to heavy e-mail, I may not be able to reply all messages. Please see your LoTW account to confirm the update or check your numbers on the daily listing at www.arrl.org/dxcc-standings.

Diamond DXCC

(Additional Diamond DXCC Tools and Reports Now Available). The ARRL Web page reports, "The Diamond DXCC Award, celebrating the 75th anniversary of DXCC, has proven to be popular around the world. Nearly 700 applications have been filed, with K3RA presently sitting atop the list with 200 of the 231 possible entities in the log. Some incredibly rare places have been on the air in 2012 so far, including Tibet and Socotra Island! Recently ARRL has been able to add some additional tools and reports to the Diamond DXCC system. An online form has been added that is similar to the Online DXCC application. The Diamond DXCC application works the same way, except it is tailored to work for just the Diamond DXCC entities."

For the complete report and more details, visit www.arrl.org/news/view/additional-diamond-dxcc-tools-and-reports-now-available

Operating N1MM

While this item is a little late for the 2012 ARRL Field Day, (but in time for the SARL National Field Day) it is never too early to start preparing for next year. The N1MM team produced a 12-minute video "Operating N1MM Logger on Field Day."

There are other helpful videos on the site, as well, and would be good training for the new operators you helped get started during Field Day.

http://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php?page=Video+-+Operating+N1MM+Logger+on+Field+Day#Video_Operating_N1MM_Logger_on_Field_Day

DXpeditions Videos of the Week

With more and more DXpeditions putting their videos on YouTube and other Web services, we decided to list them (possibly) each week. For this week's listings:

1993 - AH1A Howland Island DXpedition: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZuIxN-85js>

2006 - 5A7A Libya DXpedition: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJOfy8MZLYY>

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2011 - A71DLH Qatar DXpedition: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0f0zo-fSJ0>

If you have a DXpedition 'video' available on the Web and would like to have it listed in the OPDX, PLEASE send the URL to use and we will publish it.

ADIF2KML shows your QSOs on Google Earth

Andrew, ZL3DW says that ADIF2KML is an application that plots your amateur radio QSOs as pins on the Google Earth (tm) map of the Earth. You can see where your QSOs or QSLs came from as the Earth spins slowly on your PC screen.

Amateurs that use digi-modes like PSK usually record the Maidenhead Grid of the stations they work. ADIF2KML uses those grids to calculate LAT and LON and then creates a KML file. The data shown includes notes like the amateur's name, call sign, QSL received, etc.

NOTE: The program cannot plot QSOs that do not have a grid recorded. If you are not adding Maidenhead grids to your log entries, this programme will not work for you!

You save your log, or part of it as an ADIF file (most computer log programs can do that) and ADIF2KML makes a KML file. Double click the KML file and Google Earth (tm) will display all your QSOs as yellow pins, click a pin for the QSO details and double click to zoom into the grid square. Neat, Eh? You do need to download Google Earth (tm) but many of you will already have done that and it is free!

This is version 2 of this programme. The new version eliminates the need for Excel and does the whole conversion in Visual Basic. However, you still have the option of creating a .csv file so that you can run your own analysis of your log in a spreadsheet.

Download free from my web site <http://www.qsl.net/zl3dw>. This programme has only been tested in a Window XP environment - your PC will need Visual Basic runtime files and of course Google Earth(TM).

Haraoa ZL9HR DXpedition to Campbell Island announcement

The team at the Hellenic Amateur Radio Association of Australia are pleased to announce that the New Zealand Department of Conservation has issued the landing permit for the ZL9HR DXpedition to Campbell Island. The DXpedition will take place between 28 November and 9 December 2012.

An international team is being assembled for this event on the sub-Antarctic Campbell Island. This will be the biggest DXpedition by an Australian club in 25 years and the biggest one in 2012 worldwide. For all information, please go to the DXpedition website at ZL9HR.com.

73 from Ed, VK2ARE, Australian Publicity Officer for ZL9HR and member of the Hellenic Amateur Radio Association of Australia.

Winter Weather

It is hard enough keeping everything working at room temperature. Can you imagine trying to do it at the South Pole? The EDN article "Extreme electronics in Antarctica" will take you into the shop of the most southern repair shop on the planet and introduce you to the "fuelies".
<http://www.edn.com/electronics-blogs/analog-ic-startup/4375824/Extreme-electronics-in-Antarctica?cid=EDNToday>

Eye-catching PR

If you expect to have visitors during a contest or are setting up in a public place, here's an idea for some eye-catching PR. Connect a tablet or laptop to the Reverse Beacon Net web site <http://reversebeacon.net/> and use the call sign filter to show only spots of your call. The screen will display a zoom-able map of where your signal is being heard, worldwide.

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Words to the Wise

"In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. But, in practice, there is." Attributed to both van de Snepscheut and Yogi Berra ... I prefer Berra.

African DX

South Africa, ZS. Bernie, ZS4TX, announced this past weekend that he would be active during the upcoming CQ WW DX RTTY Contest (29 and 30 September) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. He also mentioned that he will be in the CQ WW DX CW Contest (24 and 25 November) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (15 m)/High-Power entry. QSL both events via LoTW.

Ethiopia, ET. Club station ET3AA has been active on 17 metres using SSB daily between 07:00 and 15:00 UTC. QSL direct.

African Islands

Special Event Stations

Italy. Members of the "Associazione Radioamatori Italiani" (ARI) will activate their club station as IQ1TW between 1 and 31 July. A special operating award - "Apollo Space Program - From the Earth to the Moon" - will be available. The award is to "commemorate and keep alive the memory of the space program which has revolutionized the life of humankind." To qualify for the award, you need to have confirmed contacts with the ARI Headquarters Station IQ1TW and any three stations from the following list: IZ1UMD, IZ1RFU, IZ1XBB, IZ1WVX, IZ1LBH, IK1WGZ, IZ1RGY, IZ2SMV and I1MXI. On 20 July, the anniversary of the first moon landing, a confirmed contact with IQ1TW (without the necessity of the other 3 contacts) will qualify you for the award. The special event stations will operate with 200 watts using dipole and vertical antennas. Full details, including a list of the planned HF operating frequencies and modes, log and confirmation information, rules, and application instructions are posted on the ARI web pages at <http://aritortona.xoom.it>

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 2 to 9 July 2012.

NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint

18:00 - 20:00 UTC 9 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, country and NAQCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member

Multipliers: Each country in Europe; First country in each continent worked other than Europe

Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1.5 x if bug, 1 x if other

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult

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Submit logs by: 20:00 UTC 12 July 2012

E-mail logs to: submitlog@naqcc-eu.org

Upload log at: <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/autologger/>

Mail logs to: M Ireland MW3YMY, Pen-y-Gadlas, Ffordd Bryniau, Meliden, Prestatyn, Denbighshire LL19 8RD, UK

Find rules at: <http://naqcc-eu.org/SprintHelp/SprintRules.pdf>

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 11 July and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 12 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 14 July 2012

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB

19:00 - 20:30 UTC 11 July

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RS and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 18 July 2012

Upload log at: <http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/r80mcc.shtml>

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 13 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 14 July 2012

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

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Find rules at: http://www.grpfoxyhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:30 UTC-0200Z 13 July

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 15 July 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.nccsprint.com/rules.html>

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 13 July

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 15 July 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.nccsprint.com/rules.html>

FISTS Summer Sprint

00:00 - 04:00 UTC 14 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: QRP, QRO, Club

Max power: QRO: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and FISTS no; non-FISTS: RST, state, province or country, first name and power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with FIST member; FIST members: 2 points per QSO with non-FIST member

Multipliers: Each US state and VE province once; Each DXCC country once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 13 August 2012

E-mail logs to: wa1lad@cox.net

Mail logs to: Gil Woodside, WA1LAD, 30 Hilltop Ave., West Warwick, RI 02893-2825, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.fists.org/sprints.html>

IARU HF World Championship

12:00 UTC 14 July to 12:00 UTC 15 July

Mode: CW, Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

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Classes: Single Op CW - QRP, low or high; Single Op Phone - QRP, low or high; Single Op Mixed - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single; IARU Member Society HQ

Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: IARU HQ: RS(T) and IARU Society; Non-HQ: RS(T) and ITU Zone no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same zone or with HQ stations; 3 points per QSO with different zone on same continent; 5 points per QSO with different zone on different continent

Multipliers: Each ITU zone once per band; Each IARU HQ and each IARU official once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 12:00 UTC 14 August 2012

E-mail logs to: IARUHF@iaru.org

Mail logs to: IARU HF Championship, IARU International Secretariat, Box 310905, Newington, CT 06111, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>

CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush

20:00 - 21:59 UTC 15 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: W: Wire antennas; V: Vertical antenna; B: Beam antenna; P: Portable operation, any antenna

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, class and member no or power output

Work stations: Once per 30 minutes (max of 3 times)

QSO Points: 3 points per 1st QSO with a station; 2 points per 2nd QSO with a station; 1 point per 3rd QSO with a station; 100 points for 1st QSO with WOCQC

Multipliers: Each state, province, country once; Each club member once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total state/province/country mults x member mults

Submit logs by: 14 August 2012

E-mail logs to: kiOrb@arrl.net

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cqc.org/contests/gold2012.htm>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

01:00 - 03:00 UTC 16 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 July 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: <http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

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Find rules at: <http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/>

Next Week's Contests

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint, 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 19 July
RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 19 July
QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 20 July
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 20 July
Russian Radio Team Championship, 07:00 - 14:59 UTC 21 July
DMC RTTY Contest, 12:00 UTC 21 July to 12:00 UTC 22 July
SARL Winter QRP Contest, 12:00 to 15:00 UTC 21 July
Feld Hell Sprint, 16:00 - 18:00 UTC 21 July
North American QSO Party, RTTY 18:00 UTC 21 July to 06:00 UTC 22 July
Boland ARC 40 metre Contest, 13:00 to 16:00 UTC 22 July
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest, 18:00 UTC 21 July to 21:00 UTC 22 July
RSGB Low Power Contest, 09:00 - 12:00 UTC and 13:00 - 16:00 UTC 22 July

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 9 July 2012.

1854 - George Eastman Waterville NY, invented Kodak camera
1869 - Margarine is patented in Paris, for use by French Navy
1898 - Guglielmo Marconi patents the radio
1910 - John Duigan makes a short first flight of the first Australian-built aeroplane at Mia Mia, Victoria.
1914 - Robert Hutchins Goddard patents a liquid-fuel rocket motor
1935 - First automatic parking meter in US installed, Oklahoma City, Ok
1945 - First atomic bomb detonated, Trinity Site, Alamogordo, New Mexico
1962 - First transatlantic TV transmission via satellite (Telstar I)
1999 - KPH San Francisco, last US commercial Morse message <http://www.radiomarine.org/>

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC

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